MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know what is the principle upon which the liability is fixed for payment?

MR K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: When the grains are transported from one place to another and if in the course of the transport, shortage is found, then the vallom wherein the shortage occurs will be released only after the value of shortage has been made good.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether the vallom is commandeered with the permission or without the knowledge of the owner.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Commandeering does not contemplate permission of the owner.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know when the vallom is in the possession of Government how does the owner become responsible for shortage?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The owner as such is not at all asked to pay for shortage. But the men who pilfer the grains are asked to bear the value of the shortage.

PRESIDENT: Is it not a fact that sometimes the owner is also acting as the boatman? Is it not a fact that sometimes the boatmen account to the owners for the profits earned by them? If they get a share of the profits, should they not be asked to pay the value of the shortages found?

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Absolutely no, Sir. The boat owner cannot be made responsible for shortages.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: But, may I know, how does the shortage occur when each vallom is escorted by the police?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is not possible for one policeman to look into all the pilfering taking place in the different valloms.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Then may I know why should the grains be escorted by the police?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: To check pilfering as far as possible.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many cases of shortages have come to the notice of Government till now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I claim notice

Commandeering of Valloms.

17. ***MR. P. S. MOHAMED:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of valloms (of 8 tons and above) that are running in the canals and lakes of Travancore;

(*b*) the number of valloms under commandeering at present:

(*c*) whether any principle has been followed by the authorities for releasing the valloms that were brought under commandeering;

(*d*) the number of valloms that were released from commandeering during 1119;

(*e*) the principle that was followed for the release of the valloms from commandeering; and

(*f*) the name of the officer with his designation, who has been made responsible for commandeering of valloms and their release?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) 3420 approximately.

(*b*) About 400 in actual service.

(*c*) Yes. All valloms commandeered and brought into service in 1118 and which have been in actual employment for not less than ten months are generally being released. Besides the above, valloms requiring repairs are also released for specified periods.

(*d*) 610 commandeered valloms have been released on the whole for various periods.

(*e*) Vide answer to part (*c*)

(*f*) Valloms were originally commandeered by the Executive Engineer, Kottayam. The Officer generally responsible for the commandeering of valloms and their release from Makaram 1119 is Mr. P. Parameswaran Pillai, District Magistrate on Special Duty.

P. W. D. Workshops.

18. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to sell or lease out the P. W. D. Workshops to anybody; if so, to whom and why?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): No.

State Transport.

19. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to lease out the State Transport or to entrust the management thereof to any independent body or any concern, if so, to whom and why?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): No.

Energy supplied to Aluminium Factory.

20. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of energy in K. W. supplied to Aluminium Factory in 1119 and the amount received for the same?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN (*Ag. Electrical Engineer to Government*): A maximum demand of 4600 K. W. The total amount received for the power supply during 1119 was S. Rs. 3,92,474-5-9.

Hydro-Electric Power from the 'Idiki' Waterfalls.

21. *MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have considered the possibility of producing Hydro-electric power from the 'Idiki' waterfalls in the Thodupuzha taluk; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative whether they have made any preliminary survey and prepared an estimate for the working of the same?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. Since the P. H. E. Scheme already worked by Government and found more economical than the 'Idiki' scheme admits of further development.

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